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## Couple reunited with son

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### Loophole in law kept parents from child in Sri Lanka

By MICHELLE MASKALY  
STAFF WRITER

Farook Fiyaz nervously stood in Terminal B at Newark Liberty International Airport yesterday morning holding a toy telephone.

With his wife, Noorul Haseena Fiyaz, by his side, he kept pushing the bottom portion of his sleeve out of the way to take a look at the time on his wristwatch, while she bit her bottom lip in anticipation.

"We waited so long, but these last few minutes I can't wait," said Farook Fiyaz, as he swayed back and forth, scanning the passengers and looking for his brother-in-law, who was bringing back a very special person from Sri Lanka -- the couple's 14-month-old son, Aadhil.

The 34-year-old Edison resident has only seen Aadhil in pictures.

He was born on Sept. 27, 2003 -- one day before Noorul Haseena Fiyaz was scheduled to leave Sri Lanka for the United States to live with her husband, who was granted political asylum in March 2002.

Farook Fiyaz fled Sri Lanka to Canada in 1996 and came to the



JASON TOWLEN/Staff photographer

**Farook Fiyaz of Edison is overcome with emotion as he holds his 14-month-old son, Aadhil, for the first time at Newark Liberty International Airport yesterday. At left is his wife, Noorul Haseena Fiyaz.**

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United States in 1999, after people he called terrorists, who were opposed to the Sri Lanka government, started to invade the section of the country he lived in.

He is now legally unable to travel back to his native country because of his political-asylum status.

As a recipient of political asylum, Farook Fiyaz was able to help bring his 27-year-old wife to the United States, but not his son.

His wife was forced to make a difficult decision -- remain with her son in Sri Lanka and let her visa expire Jan. 22, or join her husband in the United States, leaving her son behind with family.

She said it was a hard decision, but chose the latter and came to the United States in January because she thought they would be able to get Aadhil into the United States quickly, and the three would be a family.

According to federal regulations, the relationship between a spouse or child of someone who has been granted political asylum must have existed at the time of the person's filing for asylum, which was not the case with Aadhil.

But after a long battle, a lot of patience and the help of Sen. Jon Corzine, D-N.J., and David York, Corzine's director of immigration, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services granted Aadhil humanitarian parole, which allows him to be admitted into the country.

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York came to the airport yesterday to be with the family for Aadhil's arrival.

"They had done everything right, they just fell through a loophole in the law," York said. "It wasn't just about

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turning around a visa, it was about getting an infant."

Although Corzine couldn't be at the airport yesterday, he sent the family his best wishes.

"I am very proud of the role my office

played in helping this happen, and I am grateful that immigration authorities cleared the way for Farook and Noorul to be reunited with their son, Aadhil," Corzine said in a prepared statement. "Tears of joy run like a river today. I wish the family a safe and secure future together."

Farook Fiyaz said he appreciates the work the senator and York did to get his son here and can't wait for a time when the senator can meet the infant he helped.

"It's a wonderful day . . . I'm so happy because my son is coming," Farook Fiyaz said. "There aren't words."

The wait has taken its toll on his wife as well.

"Almost every day I've been crying and crying, now I'm so happy, just happy," said Noorul Haseena Fiyaz, who is expecting to give birth to her second child at the end of December. "Now I'll have two babies to take care of. I'm so happy. It's a gift to me, a boy and a girl."

She said she wasn't able to sleep yesterday and woke up at 4 a. m. in anticipation of her son's arrival.

The two were surrounded by friends and family, and as Farook Fiyaz's brother-in-law, Mohamed Faizal, pushed the stroller down the ramp, tears began to flow from the couple's eyes.

They immediately knelt down, to be at eye level with their son.

Opening his arms wide, Farook Fiyaz swept Aadhil up from the

stroller and into his arms.

The two couldn't stop kissing their son.

"I don't want anything, I have my son," said Farook Fiyaz, wiping tears from his eyes. "No words can describe this. I'm so happy."

Airline and airport employees huddled around the family to witness the event.

Fiyaz held Aadhil in his left arm, while holding the play telephone in his right hand.

The couple said Aadhil loves telephones and would always run toward it when it rang at her family's house in Sri Lanka.

Fiyaz and his wife took turns holding their son, kissing his small cheeks and holding his tiny hands, arms and legs.

Aadhil and his uncle started their trip Monday morning and made a brief stop in London before arriving in Newark.

"I'm really happy this has happened . . . for him to get his son," said Aadhil's uncle. "Every day we would show him a picture of Noorul and he would kiss it."



JASON TOWLEN/Staff photographer

**Aadhil Fiyaz takes in his surroundings during his first meeting with his father yesterday. A loophole in federal law on political asylum kept Fiyaz apart from his son until the U.S. granted Aadhil humanitarian parole.**

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